

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DHA-02 /075 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

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INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5751

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, US, PO

SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON HOST
GOVERNMENT

REF: (A) STATE 159747, (B) 76 STATE 037591

1. REF (A) REQUESTS AN ANALYSIS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF
PORTUGAL'S MULTILATERAL POLICIES. THE FOLLOWING ARE KEYED
TO THE SUB-SECTIONS OF REF (B), PARAGRAPH 7.

(A) INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES: IN 1977 THE GOP IS
PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN OBTAINING INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE
TO TIDE IT OVER ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. AS THIS
SUPPORT COMES PREDOMINANTLY FROM THE WESTERN INDUSTRIALIZED
NATIONS, THE GOP MAY BE EXPECTED TO SHOW LESS SUPPORT FOR
THIRD WORLD POSITIONS THAN IT DID PREVIOUSLY WHEN IT WAS
MORE CONSCIOUS OF ITS RECENT REVOLUTIONARY EXPERIENCE.
THE GOP WILL ALSO BE CONCERNED WITH STRENGTHENING ITS
DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL IMAGE AS A DEMOCRATIC STATE
WITH CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. WITH REGARD TO
SOUTHERN AFRICA, THE GOP WILL PUSH FOR A SOLUTION WHICH
WILL AVOID THE NECESSITY OF ABSORBING ADDITIONAL
THOUSANDS OF PORTUGUESE REFUGEES FROM RHODESIA AND
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SOUTH AFRICA.

(B) INFLUENCE OF THIRD COUNTRIES ON GOP. THE
PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT RECENTLY RAISED DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL TO THE AMBASSADORIAL
LEVEL. THIS STEP WAS TAKEN BY THE SOARES ADMINISTRATION
IN SPITE OF OPPOSING PRESSURE FROM THE ARAB STATES.
THE GOP MAY SEEK TO SMOOTH RUFFLED ARAB FEATHERS TO EXTENT

POSSIBLE IN FUTURE UN VOTES, MINDFUL OF ITS DEPENDENCE
UPON IMPORTED PETROLEUM.

-- THE GOP ACKNOWLEDGES SPECIAL TIES AND VARYING
DEGREES OF INFLUENCE WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENTS OF FORMER
PORTUGUESE COLONIES, I.E., ANGOLA, MOZAMBIQUE, GUINEA,
CAPE VERDE, AND SAO TOME.

(C) EXTENT OF GOP INSTRUCTIONS TO DELEGATIONS:
GOP ALLOWS ITS DELEGATIONS TO THE UN AND TO INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCES CONSIDERABLE LEEWAY. STAFF STUDIES ARE
PRODUCED ON ONLY THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES. THE
DELEGATIONS' REPORTING, HOWEVER, IS NORMALLY ADEQUATE TO
MAKE INSTRUCTIONS FROM LISBON TIMELY AND EFFECTIVE ON
SELECTED ISSUES OF INTEREST TO GOP.

(D) INDEPENDENCE OF DELEGATIONS: GOP DELEGATIONS
DO NOT HAVE INDEPENDENT POLITICAL POWER. THE EMBASSY
IS NOT AWARE OF ANY INSTANCE WHEN A DELEGATION VOTED
CONTRARY TO INSTRUCTIONS. THE EMBASSY IS AWARE, HOWEVER,
OF A CASE WHERE AN INDIVIDUAL DELEGATE REPRESENTING THE
GOP ON A CONFERENCE COMMITTEE VOTED CONTRARY TO
ESTABLISHED GOP POLICY (I.E., A GOP DELEGATE TO THE
RECENT ILO CONFERENCE).

(E) RECEPTIVITY TO US REPRESENTATIONS: THE MORE
MODERATE TREND EVIDENT IN THE GOP'S DOMESTIC POLITICS IS
ALSO REFLECTED IN ITS FOREIGN POLICY. THE GOP IS
NORMALLY RECEPTIVE TO US REPRESENTATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN
THOSE MATTERS WHERE WE HAVE A READILY DISCERNIBLE INTEREST,
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AND MAY BE EXPECTED TO TAKE THE REPRESENTATION INTO ACCOUNT
WHEN MAKING A DECISION.

-- ASIDE FROM ASSISTANCE MATTERS, WHICH ARE CLOSELY COORDINATED
WITH U.S. THE GOP ONLY OCCASIONALLY REQUESTS US SUPPORT
FOR MATTERS OF INTEREST TO IT IN MULTILATERAL RELATIONS.
IN VIEW OF OUR FREQUENT REQUESTS FOR GOP SUPPORT, THE
EMBASSY BELIEVES THESE INFREQUENT REQUESTS SHOULD BE
GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

2. FSO-3 DALE POVENMIRE IS THE DESIGNATED MULTILATERAL
AFFAIRS OFFICER AT THIS POST.
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Message Attributes

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